
NEWS RELEASE

UOB Painting Of The Year Competition Goes Regional

Winners from each Competition across the region will compete for the Special Mention Prize, adding another dimension to this signature event

Singapore, 26 Apr 2011 – United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is pleased to announce the launch of the prestigious UOB Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition in four countries. UOB in Malaysia and Indonesia will hold the UOB POY Competition for the first time this year, following the success of the UOB POY Competition in Singapore and Thailand.

UOB has been supporting the arts since the early 1970s. The Bank believes that an awareness and appreciation of the Arts can inject vibrancy and contribute to the uplifting of a society. Chief among its efforts is the UOB POY Competition which has become a significant event in the arts calendar in Singapore.

Through the UOB POY Competition, UOB aims to promote a greater interest in local art, further encourage artists in their creative endeavours and provide a platform to recognise and exhibit the best creative works.

The UOB POY Competition was launched in 1982 in Singapore and has been held annually since. 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of this premiere art event in Singapore, while UOB Thai held the UOB POY Competition for the first time in 2010.

In conjunction with the expansion into the region, UOB has reaffirmed the original intent of the UOB POY Competition by refocusing on paintings as an art form. This year, the UOB POY Competition will not include a photography category. The minimum age of participation has also increased to 13 to streamline the selection process and concentrate the efforts on more mature works.

Said Mr Choo Thiam Siew, Chief Judge for this year's POY Competition Judging Panel, "The UOB POY Competition has been an institution in the Singapore arts scene for 30

years. Painting is a diverse and sophisticated art form and allows an artist to be able to express the range of his ideas and talents. By concentrating solely on painting, UOB is returning to the essence of the POY Competition, in keeping with what the name suggests.“

The Painting Of The Year winner from each UOB POY Competition across the region will be invited to the Singapore Awards Ceremony where their work will be exhibited alongside all the winning works from the Singapore UOB POY Competition. In addition, a Special Mention Prize, comprising S\$5,000 cash, will be awarded to one of the country UOB POY Competition winners.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, UOB's Deputy Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer said, “As we hit the 30-year milestone for the UOB POY Competition, we remain committed to our support for the Arts, which we believe play a vital role in society. We are pleased to extend the UOB POY Competition beyond Singapore to the regional communities where we operate, starting with Thailand and now Malaysia and Indonesia. We aim to broaden the avenues for local artists to compete on a regional platform, and facilitate cross-cultural exchanges.”

The UOB POY Competition is open to Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents, Employment Pass, Work Permit, Student Pass, Dependent's Pass and Long Term Visit Pass holders, born in or before 1998.

Entry forms and a copy of the rules and regulations of the UOB POY Competition will be available at uobgroup.com, all UOB branches, schools and art institutions from 27 April 2011.

Artists in Singapore who wish to take part in the UOB POY Competition may submit their works on 9 July 2011 at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. All entries must be submitted at the Visual Arts Seminar Room, Level 2, Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts Campus 1 (Wing B), 80 Bencoolen Street, Singapore 189655 on 9 July 2011 between 1pm and 6pm.

Winners will be announced on 16 July 2011. All award-winning and highly-commended entries will be exhibited at the 30th UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition to be held at Jendela (*Visual Arts Space*), Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, from 17-31 July 2011.

(Please refer to the attached Annex for details on the categories of prizes and the Factsheet for more information on the UOB POY Competition)

About United Overseas Bank

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia. It provides a wide range of financial services through its global network of over 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America, including banking subsidiaries in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on children, education and the arts. Its staff volunteerism programme was initiated in 2007. Through the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk, UOB has raised funds for its named beneficiaries. UOB has also organised the prestigious Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition since 1982. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB has been conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the sixth consecutive year.

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ANNEX

The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition And Exhibition

Prize Categories (Singapore)

UOB Painting Of The Year Award \$30,000 and a Trophy
The UOB Painting Of The Year winner is also eligible to vie for the Special Mention Prize of S\$5,000. UOB may, at its sole and absolute discretion, award this additional prize to one of the four UOB Painting Of The Year Award winners from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia whom, in the judges' final and conclusive opinion, is the most exceptional artwork of the four.

Most Promising Young Artist Award
• Youth Section \$2,500 and a Trophy

Four Platinum Awards \$10,000 each

Highly-commended Awards for each section
• Three awards for the Open Section \$2,500 each
• Three awards for the Youth Section \$1,000 each

The UOB Painting Of The Year Award and four Platinum Awards may be won by any Entrant regardless of Category (Abstract, Representational or Ink Painting) or Section (Youth or Open) of submission.

In addition, the UOB Painting Of The Year Award winner and four Platinum Award winners will be invited for an interview to vie for a bonus prize of a 1-month Residence Programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum.

The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition And Exhibition

Fact Sheet

1. Introduction

The United Overseas Bank (UOB) Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition was launched in March 1982 and has been held annually since. The year 2011 marks the 30th year of this premier visual arts event in Singapore.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of the UOB POY Competition are to:

- Promote greater interest in local art;
- Encourage local artists to persist in their creative endeavours; and
- Provide recognition for the best creative works.

3. History & Development

Since 1973, the UOB Group has been supporting budding local artists by selectively purchasing their works of art. Through this purchase-support programme, the Group has, to date, acquired a large collection of artworks totalling more than 1,500 pieces. These paintings are displayed at the Group's Head Office as well as at its more than 500 global offices

The UOB POY Competition is an extension of the Group's patronage of the arts. For its contribution to the arts, UOB was conferred the "Distinguished Patron of the Arts" award by the Singapore National Arts Council for six consecutive years from 2005 to 2010.

The first UOB POY Competition - held in 1982 - was jointly organised by the UOB Group and the then Ministry of Culture (now called the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts.)

Since 1983, the UOB POY competition has been the sole effort of the UOB Group.

4. Structure of the POY Competition

Since its launch in 1982, the format of the UOB POY Competition has undergone various changes. These changes, recommended by the panel of judges, were introduced to enhance the quality and prestige of the Competition.

- 1982: The first UOB POY Competition was divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Young People's Section.
- 1983: The UOB POY Competition was reduced to one section - the Open Section.
- 1984: The UOB POY Competition was divided into three categories – Abstract Medium, Representational Medium and Traditional Chinese Medium – to attract participation from the widest range of artists.
- 1991: The UOB POY Competition was again divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Junior Section. .
- 2003: A new photography category was added to the existing three, bringing the total number of categories to four.

- 2006: The Junior Section was further expanded into two separate categories – the Youth Section for participants aged 13 to 18, and the Junior Section for those aged 6 to 12.
- 2008: The prize money for the Painting Of The Year was increased to \$30,000. This is accompanied by increases in the prizes for the other awards.
- 2009: A partnership was formed with the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (FAAM), where the winner of the Painting Of The Year award will attend a one-month residence programme at the FAAM, sponsored fully by UOB. In addition, four Platinum Awards, open to artists across all the four categories (Abstract, Representational, Traditional Chinese and Photography), replaced the Open Section Category Awards which were restricted to participants within each category.
- 2010: For the first time ever, UOB took the Competition beyond Singapore to Bangkok, Thailand. The UOB (Thai) Painting Of The Year Competition, modelled after Singapore, aims to recognise artists and acknowledge the best creative works in Thailand.
- 2011: The Competition was expanded to Malaysia and Indonesia.

5. Judges

Each year, the entries are judged by a panel of judges comprising renowned artists/art connoisseurs/art curators who are specially appointed by the UOB Group Art Committee. The panel includes prominent personalities from overseas to ensure objectivity in the judging.

6. UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition

Each year, the award-winning and highly-commended paintings from the Competition are displayed at the UOB POY Exhibition. The aim of the Exhibition is to foster a higher level of art consciousness among the public.

Since 1985, the UOB Group has also concurrently staged a special exhibition featuring works by the winner of the preceding year's UOB POY Competition at the Exhibition. The Group hopes to help local artists gain more recognition for their works and inspire them to achieve even higher standards through such sponsorships.

In 2007, UOB presented an exhibition called The Best Of UOB in conjunction with the Singapore Arts Show 2007, where the top painting from the first 26 UOB POY Competitions were showcased. The winning works from 2001 to 2010 were also exhibited at the ArtSingapore 2010.

7. Premier Event Status

The success of the UOB POY Competition can be seen by indicators as the good response over the last 29 years, the high standard of styles and mediums adopted, the extensive publicity enjoyed by the winners, and the wide recognition gained by the participating artists as a result of winning the Competition.

The UOB POY Exhibition was included as a Fringe Event in the inaugural Singapore Biennale 2006, a cultural event that showcased international contemporary art.